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ABSTRACT

This collection describes over 340 projects in which the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis) has played a role in the past two years. The CURA offers a program of research and outreach on urban problems, which brings the resources of the university to bear on the problems of urban communities. The projects described in this publication are large and small; some involve research (basic and applied), some are primarily technical assistance. Many projects were faculty research efforts while others were graduate student projects. Most projects were done in cooperation with communities, agencies, or other state organizations. The project descriptions are grouped under the following subjects: (1) community and neighborhood studies; (2) economic development and employment; (3) education; (4) environment and energy; (5) housing; (6) human services; (7) land use and population; (7) minorities and disadvantaged; (8) policy and government reform; and (9) special programs. A map of project sites shows the program distribution across the state. (JB)

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# *Opening the University to the Community*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS


Introduction 3

Community and Neighborhood Studies 5

Economic Development and Employment 8

Education 11

Environment and Energy 12

Housing 15

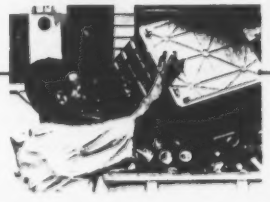
Human Services 16

Land Use and Population 20

Minorities and Disadvantaged 22

Policy and Government Reform 26

Special Programs 28



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# INTRODUCTION

During each biennium CURA publishes an update of its activities and programs for the past two years. Because most of CURA's base support was threatened last June by the veto of the University of Minnesota State Specials, there has been the very real prospect that this report would be our last one. Low morale has been tempered somewhat by assurances from everyone, including the governor, that there never was any wish to eliminate CURA. However, intentions aside, we were caught in the technicalities of state and University financing and the struggle between the governor and the legislature over higher education funding.

Now the good news—we at CURA, along with those at the University and in the community with whom we work, are exceedingly gratified that in mid-January the legislature and the governor agreed to restore our funding along with that of the other State Specials. This will permit us to proceed with our business this year and begin our program planning for next year.

In many ways, CURA's work is more important now that it was when we began, more than two decades ago. At that time, in the midst of the so-called urban crisis of the late 1960s, Minnesota legislative and executive leadership turned to the land grant university and asked it to begin to do for the urban-related issues and problems of the state what it had been doing so successfully for so many years for agriculture, health care, science, and technology. CURA was established then and began its program of research and outreach.

We don't use the term "urban crisis" much these days, but the fundamental issues of poverty, tension among the races, education, crime, jobs, housing, economic development, chemical abuse, environment, health care, human services, and family structure are as much with us today as they were twenty-five years ago. We know now that these problems are not confined to the older parts of our large core cities but can be found in all our communities in one form or another.

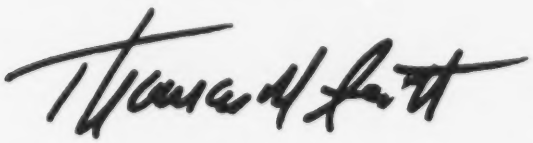
We also know now that throwing dollars at urban-related problems, as we did in the 1960s and 1970s, does not make them go away nor does ignoring them as we did in the 1980s.

But, if we have learned nothing else in the past thirty years, it is irrefutable that better understanding and better knowledge can help us begin to make the kinds of fundamental changes that are necessary for lasting progress.

This is where CURA and the University of Minnesota come in. Simply put, what CURA does is to help mobilize the considerable research talents of the University faculty and graduate students and to focus those talents and energies on the broad range of urban-related problems and issues confronting our neighborhoods, cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and all the people and groups for whom the urban crisis is still alive and for whom urban problems are still a day to day reality. In this way, for twenty-three years, CURA has been "opening the university to the community."

The report that follows describes some 340 projects in which CURA has had a role during the past two years. Some are large, some are small; some involve research that is both basic and applied, some are primarily technical assistance. Many are faculty research projects, others are graduate student projects. Most are done in cooperation with communities, agencies, or organizations somewhere in the state. For 1990-91 these projects have involved 111 faculty from 56 units across the University, 225 graduate students from 35 units, 15 state agencies, 30 local agencies, and 51 nonprofit organizations. The chart and the map on pages 18 and 24 of this report illustrate the geographic distribution of CURA's projects.

Those interested in further information are invited to call CURA at 612/625-1551.



Thomas M. Scott, Director

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

# COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD STUDIES

■ **Neighborhood Organizations in the Twin Cities.** A number of programs were developed and implemented at the request of neighborhood organizations and organizers in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. To carry out this effort, CURA supported a graduate student who was also an experienced organizer and program evaluator.

The "Neighborhood Working Group" concentrated on the campaign for passage of a legislative package known as the "Year of the City." They secured funding to hire a lobbyist and, cooperating with the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth, were successful in securing a multi-million dollar commitment from the state for funding of neighborhood development efforts.

Neighborhood organizations in northeast Minneapolis coalesced to form Northeast Neighborhood Representatives and to raise approximately $25,000 to hire a director. They were planning their organizing convention and had involved virtually all of the organizations in northeast Minneapolis when the director resigned and the coalition fell apart.

Neighborhood forums, which CURA had initially staffed, became the "Organizers' Roundtable" with the help of the Neighborhood Resource Center. Half-day training sessions and networking for organizers were provided in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. CURA continued to help with arrangements and ideas.

CURA conducted an "occupational survey" of Twin Cities neighborhood organizers and published the results in a monograph, *Who's Organizing the Twin Cities?"* The survey identified supervised on-the-job experience as the best training opportunity for organizers and one of their primary needs. A second graduate student was recruited to prepare a directory of training opportunities for both new and experienced organizers. It included local and national resources for training, for internships, and for job placement services designed specifically for organizers. The directory was published as *Resources for Organizers*. CURA is now working with the Organizing Apprenticeship Project to develop more opportunities for supervised training for new organizers.

CURA continued to help the Association of Professional Community Organizers with its meetings and efforts to form an association of district council staff and neighborhood organizers in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

An investigation was begun into what data neighborhood organizations would find most useful at the neighborhood level and what might already be available. This led, in part, to CURA's project, Whittier Neighborhood Housing Study.

■ **Center for Community Studies.** The center helps Minnesota communities with their planning and design problems by turning them into class projects and senior projects. The projects become learning experiences for students and faculty, while the community benefits. (For more information about the center, turn to page 29.) In most projects students and faculty meet with people from the community many times, finally presenting a master plan or a set of design alternatives for the area of concern. Examples include:

**Hutchinson.** Main Street planting designs.

**Silver Bay.** Design alternatives for the Outer Drive.

**Harmony.** Conceptual designs for South Park.

**Little Falls.** Master plan and implementation strategy for LeBourget Park.

**Hassan Township** (Hennepin County). Analysis of future development potential.

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**South St. Paul.** Plans for a new public open space and wetland along the Mississippi River.

**Melrose.** Master plans for Sauk River Park.

**Linwood Township** (Anoka County). Impact analysis of different ecological and land use policies.

**Heron Lake.** Suggestions for controlling water quality and water levels.

**West Central School of Agriculture** (Morris). Design for an alumni garden.

**Rogers Elementary School.** Master plan for outdoor education facilities.

**Freeborn.** Potential improvements to Freeborn Lake and the city of Freeborn.

**Henderson.** Suggestions for trails, land use, water resources, and improved community image.

**New Prague.** Plans for Greenway Park.

**Summit Avenue** (St. Paul). Planting alternatives for Nathan Hale, Cochran, and Summit Lookout parks.

**Young America.** Designs for Willkommen Park.

**Hawthorne Neighborhood** (Minneapolis). Proposals for improving four residential blocks around Farview Park.

**Anoka County Parks Department** (Ramsey). Preliminary master plan for the Mississippi West Regional Park.

**Dawson.** Master plan for public open space along the Lac Qui Parle River.

**Lac Qui Parle Valley High School** (Madison). Master plan for outdoor environmental education and agricultural facilities.

**Wacouta Township** (Goodhue County). Analysis of land capability and development control options.

**Thomas Avenue** (St. Paul). Plans for streetside plantings to buffer residential areas from industrial uses.

**Minnesota Center for Arts Education** (Golden Valley). Designs to solve drainage problems and to incorporate art into the landscape.

**Adams Elementary School** (Coon Rapids). Design for an environmental education trail.

**Carver County Historical Society** (Waconia). Plans for a horticultural history garden on the museum grounds.

**Kanabec County Agricultural Society** (Mora). Master plan to improve the Kanabec County Fairgrounds.

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**SAFE Art Spot** (Minneapolis). Site plan and design proposals for an inner-city vacant lot.

**Randall.** Conceptual master plans for outdoor education facilities at Dr. Knight Elementary School and at Bingo Riverside Park.

■ **Community-Based Crime Prevention in Elliot Park.** The problems which the Community Crime Prevention Committee in the Elliot Park neighborhood of Minneapolis were dealing with were beyond the capacities of an all-volunteer group, and neighborhood staff were unavailable. CURA supported a student intern to work with the committee and then involve neighborhood businesses, public agencies, and other interested organizations. The student served as part-time researcher, organizer, and politician. New neighborhood participants were brought in, new policing patterns were established, and the sale of liquor in the neighborhood was curtailed and better controlled. The summer intern position became a permanent staff position with the neighborhood organization and continues today.

■ **Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program**. This twenty million dollar per year program is working to revitalize Minneapolis neighborhoods over the next twenty years. CURA is providing assistance in a number of ways. One of our staff organized a series of six seminars, involving people from the community and the University, to help the city design the program. Another staff person serves on the committee that is charged with getting useful information to the neighborhoods. The Minnesota Center for Survey Research (see p. 30 for a complete description of MCSR) has been selected through a competitive bidding process to provide technical assistance for the neighborhood surveys that will be conducted to learn the needs and priorities of residents in each neighborhood.

■ **Mississippi River Boat Trip**. A group of urban planners studied towns and cities of the Mississippi River valley from the Gulf of Mexico to St. Paul, under the aegis of the University's Design Center for American Urban Landscape. The study was conducted during an ambitious two-month boat and van excursion. Several CURA staff members and students participated, providing the economic, historic, and geographic background of the regions through which the study passed. At CURA, we were able to gain a better understanding of how river towns are coping with the nation's changing transportation system and the altered role they have in this system.

■ **Neighborhood Balance Sheet.** There has been no comprehensive list of funding sources for neighborhood organizations in the Twin Cities. This project identified the major sources of funding, the amounts of funding, and the purposes for which funds were designated. Sources include foundations, various units of government, private individuals, and grassroots fundraising campaigns. In the face of cutbacks and changes in many of these sources, the new neighborhood balance sheet, which the project has created, should help neighborhood organizations learn where to go for funding for their specific projects. It will also inform funders about neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Copies of the draft are available.

■ **Support for Project Future**. Project Future is a program of the Minnesota Extension Service and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs that helps small- to medium-sized Minnesota communities conduct strategic planning for their future. CURA provided graduate research assistance during the development of this program in 1989. Now our Center for Community Studies (see p. 29) often acts as a resource in helping these communities implement their plans. Project Future has already worked in fifty Minnesota communities.

■ **Neighborhood Data**. CURA has an ongoing interest in acquiring and using data about neighborhoods. The McKnight Foundation asked CURA to inventory what neighborhood-level data are available. Work in the Whittier Neighborhood of Minneapolis for MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing) proved how difficult it is to extract public data for such a small area, even on housing. These experiences have been documented in a report, "Empty Promises for Small Area Data," presented at the 1991 URISA Conference and the 1991 Applied Geographers Conference. The problems are partly technical, but largely institutional. The report has proven useful to the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program which is also trying to collect data about neighborhoods; as a result CURA will be represented on its information committee.

■ **Youth in Iron Mining Districts**. A drop in the world demand for steel has brought hardship to iron mining communities in Minnesota and elsewhere. To assess the social implications of this change, youth in Minnesota's Iron Range and in Sweden's iron mining area were surveyed. Young residents were asked to describe the impact that strained economic conditions have had on their lives, on their social problems, and on their future aspirations. The project was sponsored by the Center for Community and Regional Research in Duluth (see p. 30 for more about the center).

■ **Historic Preservation Revisited**. In the summer of 1991 CURA provided partial support for a preservation survey of Minneapolis. The survey is a follow-up to a 1980 study that looked at the entire city and identified structures worthy of preservation and structures that should be designated for historic preservation. This recent effort is intended to monitor what has happened to those structures. With the assistance of community volunteers and of teachers participating in a special program, nearly 90 percent of the re-survey was completed. Data are now being tabulated and the re-survey will be completed in the spring of 1992 along with a written report.

■ **Who Owns Downtown?** Owners, developers, public officials, people who work there, people who live there, and

people who go there occasionally all have an interest in downtown, but often their interests differ and sometimes they conflict. A professor of urban geography examined opinions of people from each of these groups through a series of focus groups where people talked about downtown Minneapolis. The project was written up for the *CURA Reporter*.

■ **Minneapolis Neighborhood Urban Design Conference**. Through CURA's Center for Community Studies (see p. 29), and with support from the University's Design Center for American Urban Landscape, a student worked with the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment and representatives of Minneapolis neighborhoods to organize a spring 1991 conference on how neighborhoods can use urban design. Topics for the conference included: developing a community history, design questions for new neighborhood developments, creating defensive space, options for neighborhood traffic control, reuse of vacant lots, organizing neighborhood cleanups, how to plant an award-winning garden, creating public art in the neighborhood, and design of neighborhood gateways.

■ **Media Isolation of Border Communities**. A CURA-sponsored graduate student in geography is looking at the news coverage available to Minnesota border communities. Those places where the dominant radio, television, and newspaper coverage comes from across the state line may be increasingly isolated from mainstream Minnesota. Results show good coverage of Minnesota politics in Fargo, North Dakota and LaCrosse, Wisconsin, but communities along the southern border of the state hear little about Minnesota from the Iowa media.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

■ **Trade Centers of the Upper Midwest.** The changing role of trade centers in a seven-state area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Montana) was examined, comparing the numbers and types of business establishments in 1960 and 1989. From the small hamlets which dot the countryside to the Twin Cities metropolitan area the data provided useful observations about economic changes in the towns and cities of the Midwest. This study, funded in part by the Ford Foundation, has proven to be of considerable value to local leaders as well as to other research projects. Two research reports resulted from the project: one detailing the overall changes between 1960 and 1989 and a second presenting three case studies. The case studies allowed a more detailed look at the change in economic activity in north-central Wisconsin, north-central Iowa, and southeastern Montana—areas selected because they represent the widely differing settlement patterns of the Upper Midwest.

■ **Financial Institutions in St. Paul.** At the request of the Research Office of the St. Paul City Council, CURA conducted a survey and data analysis to determine whether housing and economic development monies are adequately and equitably available throughout St. Paul. The study found that mortgages in lower income neighborhoods were not as available as needed, especially to applicants of color, while home improvement loans were more accessible in these same areas. The study also found a widespread need for better understanding and information about essential financial services such as check cashing, savings, and loan application in lower income neighborhoods.

■ **Home on the Range**. Although jobs have left Minnesota's Iron Range, people's hearts have not. CURA provided support to a graduate student in geography who talked with residents and found that their decision to remain in this economically disadvantaged area was based more on personal attachment than economics. To survive, people have gone back to strategies of their forebearers: dipping into savings, selling personal belongings, relying on a strong network of family and friends for loans and jobs, and living off the land. An article in the *CURA Reporter* will summarize the student's findings.

■ **Research on the Nonprofit Sector**. A professor of sociology is a leading scholar on the nonprofit sector. In the past two years, CURA has funded a number of his activities and research projects:

**Corporate Giving and Nonprofits.** A longitudinal study was conducted during the 1980s of nonprofit organizations, institutional elites and corporate philanthropic leaders, and corporate giving in the Twin Cities. Significant changes occurred during this period and the study's results are providing fuel for discussion about whether the changes are positive or not.

**Proseminar on Nonprofit Organizations.** A seminar series was organized to allow sharing among researchers interested in nonprofits. Graduate students and faculty from the University of Minnesota and other local colleges and universities have participated and presented their research findings. Attendance has included people from state agencies, corporations, and nonprofits. The proseminar has met four times a year over the last biennium and has included several national speakers.

**Conflict Within Nonprofits.** A recent research project is looking at the internal impact of any changes in funding levels within nonprofit agencies. Perhaps, for example, reduced funding increases conflict which, in-turn, affects a funder's evaluation and leads to further loss of funding. This study is funded by CURA's Conflict and Change Center (see p. 29).

■ **Snowbirds**. What is the size and impact of the winter flight of Minnesota's elderly to warmer climates?

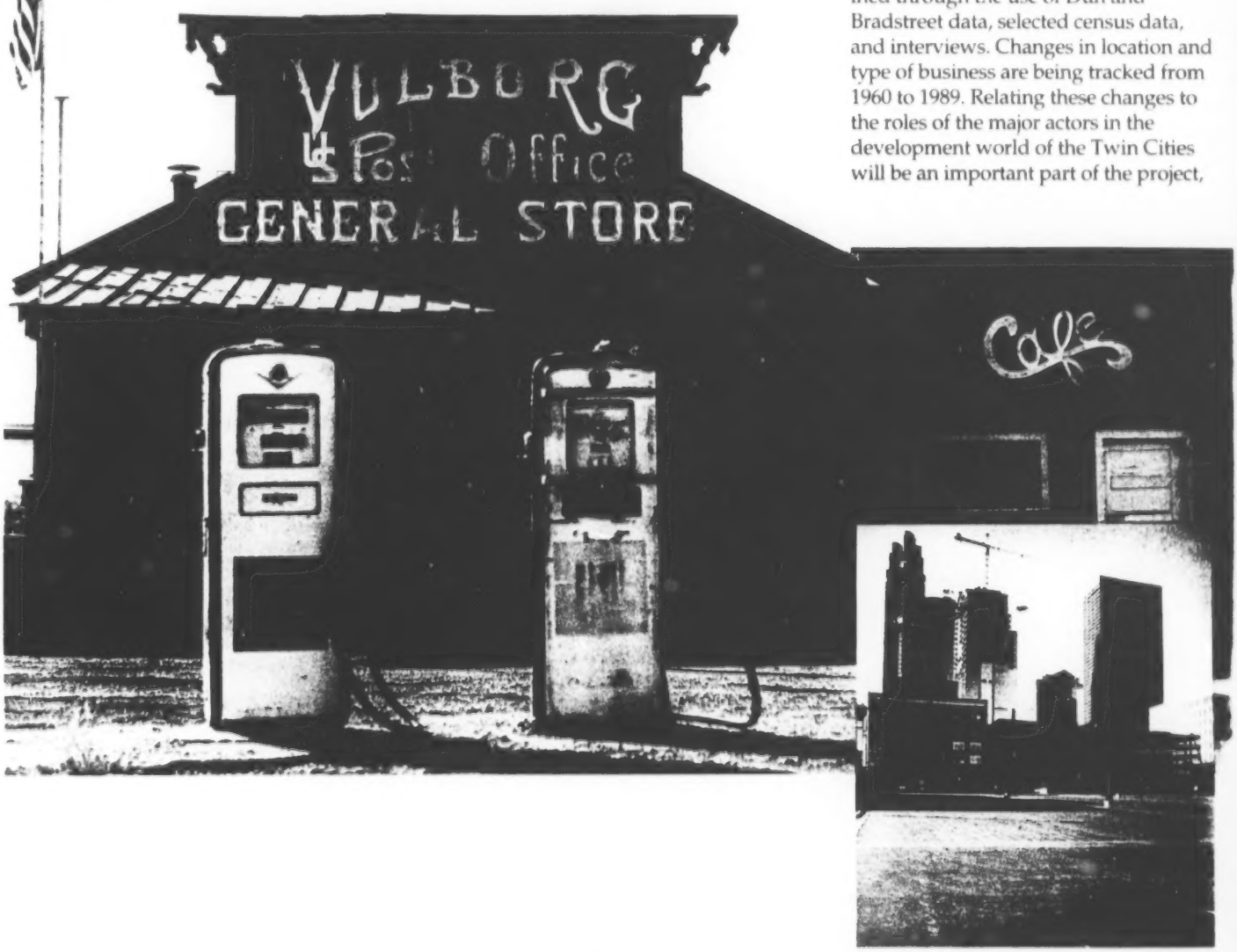
CURA participated in the Wilder Foundation's statewide study of seniors, looking for information about these seasonal migrations. Over 10 percent of the elderly leave, spending as much as $150 million annually in other states during the winter months. The larger impact is the social loss for many small communities in rural Minnesota when these vital people leave.

■ **Community Trade Profiles and Index of Change.** Development of a new type of community profile and index of change for Minnesota trade centers is currently underway using Dun and Bradstreet data, supplemented by other data. A pilot project is in progress in southeastern Minnesota. The work is being done in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development and will involve consultation with local leaders and other researchers. The pilot project report will be complete by April 1992 and the project is expected to then expand to include the entire state of Minnesota.

■ **Foreign Investment in Minnesota.** A professor of public affairs is examining variations in the amount of direct foreign investment among each of the United States. He is looking for what determines the variations so that Minnesota policy makers can better understand how to increase foreign investment in this state.

■ **Rural Economic Development.** Ten working papers have been issued from the State and Regional Research Center in the last few years. The center, which began in 1985, was housed under CURA and received grants from a number of sources including the Northwest Area Foundation and the Bush Foundation. It was created as a way of facilitating research on regional economic development issues and its working papers are the fruits of six years of research and inquiry.

■ **Business Changes in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.** The extraordinary development of the Twin Cities metropolitan area as the business capital of the Upper Midwest is being examined through the use of Dun and Bradstreet data, selected census data, and interviews. Changes in location and type of business are being tracked from 1960 to 1989. Relating these changes to the roles of the major actors in the development world of the Twin Cities will be an important part of the project,



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currently underway as a CURA-supported doctoral thesis. A report is expected to be completed this summer.

■ **Highway Funds and Economic Development**. A professor of civil engineering discovered that Minnesota's highway funds can play both an active and a reactive role in regional economic development. The state was divided into different types of regions (regional centers, urban influenced, agricultural, and natural resource-based) and the long-term effect of highway funds was studied. Some regions gained from improved roads while other lost. The study was funded through CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31).

■ **Job Availability**. Job seekers, counselors, and others need better statistics on occupational supply and demand. This need was expressed by the Research and Statistics Office of the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training. A graduate student analyzed data on the supply of people for selected occupational clusters and developed narratives clarifying the association between supply and demand projections. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details).

■ **Corporate Conflict**. A professor of sociology is interested in the relationship between the structure of corporate organizations and inter-corporate conflicts, such as hostile takeovers. He has collected and compared data from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Sweden. The frequency of conflict varies among corporations in each society partially due to differences in hierarchical organization, and partially due to market forces and organization rules. The study was funded by the Conflict and Change Center (see p. 29).

■ **Shopping Downtown**. A survey of people in the Twin Cities area revealed that nearly half do not shop downtown. Three factors seem to determine who shops downtown: where people work, where they live, and their tastes. Parking problems and the cost of parking are the biggest deterrents to shopping downtown. An article on the survey appeared in the *CURA Reporter*. The survey was part of the Twin Cities Area Survey conducted each year by CURA's Minnesota Center for Survey Research (see p. 30 for more information about the center).

■ **Mall of America**. A distinguished professor of geography has projected the impact that the world's largest shopping mall, now under construction in Bloomington, will have on retail business in other locations in the metropolitan area. If it is successful, competing shopping areas will find their profit margins cannibalized. If it is not, the mall may suffer a prolonged period of debilitation with possible appeals for public help. Or, partly successful, it may leave all area shopping centers somewhat sick for five or more years.

■ **The Church as Partner in Community Economic Development**. One of the resources available for economic development in the African American community is the church. CURA provided a graduate research assistant to help a professor in the Humphrey Institute. Together they developed written case histories of successful activities in Chicago and Kansas City, then organized a two-and-a-half-day forum and consultation for public officials and church leaders, held in November 1990. A written proceedings was published and the results were highlighted in the Citizens League's *Minnesota Journal*.

■ **Gasoline Price Competition**. What determines how much a Minnesota resident pays for a gallon of gasoline? A CURA-sponsored graduate student in geography collected data in St. Cloud on gas station prices and consumer preferences. He is analyzing these data to determine the extent to which prices are determined by local competition among the stations and by regional and national competition among the petroleum companies. An article in the *CURA Reporter* will summarize his findings.

■ **City Venture**. 1990 saw the publication of the final report on a project begun a decade earlier. CURA began monitoring City Venture Corporation (CVC) in 1980 with intensive on-site visits in seven cities across the country. CVC was an experiment in showing how a private corporation could solve the problems of decaying inner cities while making a profit. CURA followed the rise and fall of CVC examining its profit orientation, its holistic approach, its composition and style, and its effectiveness.

# EDUCATION

■ **Preventing Reading Failure**. Reading is critical to a child's success in school. If a child is disabled in reading by the end of first grade the probability is high that the child will remain a disabled reader. A professor of curriculum and instruction in the University's College of Education adapted a successful reading intervention program that had required expensive tutoring and separation from the normal classroom to a program that first grade teachers could incorporate into their regular classroom teaching. Pilot tests of the program showed that many low-achieving students in the first grade could get a good start in reading without great expense and without being separated into special education classes. The work was supported by a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see p. 31).

■ **Students of Color in College**. A professor of educational policy and administration studied how minority students are faring in Minnesota's colleges and universities. The statistics show that few students of color are completing their degrees, though their enrollment is on the rise. Through a series of in-depth interviews at the University of Minnesota, a community college, and a private college, a number of problems were revealed about the comfort level of minority students in these schools and about the problems of transferring credit from one school to another. Since an article about this study appeared in the *CURA Reporter* a new agreement has been signed to make it easier for students to transfer from Minnesota community colleges into the University's College of Liberal Arts. This research was supported by one of CURA's Faculty Research Competition grants (p. 31).

■ **Teaching Political Tolerance**. Intolerance of others is becoming an ever-increasing problem for this country as we become more diverse. Through a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (p. 31), a professor of political

science and a professor of curriculum and instruction teamed up to create a four-week course that teaches students to respect the rights of groups that they dislike or disagree with. The course has been successfully taught to both rural and urban junior high students in their civics classes. An article about the course appeared in a recent *CURA Reporter*.

■ **Head Start Family Impact Project.** The Head Start program, begun in the 1960s, has been a successful attempt to overcome some of the educational disadvantages faced by children of poverty. Since its beginning, it has tried to involve parents, but just what involvement means and whether it makes a difference were not clear. A professor of sociology and a graduate student in child development teamed up to test the effects of parental involvement in Head Start and learned that involvement helps parents to see their children more positively and more as the children actually see themselves. Their research was funded by the federal Administration for Children, Youth and Families with additional assistance from CURA.

■ **Cognitive and Social Development in Elementary Students.** A study in the Duluth Public Schools is examining the effects that socio-economic status, different types of early childhood programs, length of time in early childhood programs, educational levels of parents, intelligence quotients, and special education needs have on the cognitive and social development of students. The study is being carried out by a team of professors and students in child and family development through the Center for Community and Regional Research (see p. 30 for more about the center).

■ **Training Peacemakers in Elementary Schools.** Violence is on the rise and people are wondering if schools can do anything about the problem. Two professors in the College of Education, through a grant from the Conflict and Change Center (see p. 29), have developed a program to train elementary school students in conflict resolution through strategies such as negotiation and peer mediation. The successful program allows teachers and administrators to spend less time dealing with student conflicts.

■ **Gender Differences in Managing Conflict.** A professor of linguistics videotaped children at a day care center as they attempted to negotiate conflict. Even at ages three to five, and in same-sex groups, boys and girls displayed quite different styles. Boys are more confrontational and direct, while girls are more collaborative and verbal. The study was funded by the Conflict and Change Center (see p. 29).

■ **Uncapping Retirement in Higher Education.** A national survey was conducted of faculty and administrators to learn their beliefs and expectations regarding age and seniority. Both positive and negative assumptions were analyzed and recommendations made regarding the 1994 elimination of academic mandatory retirement. The study was funded through a seed grant from the All University Council on Aging (see p. 28).

■ **Coping with Conflict at the University.** The Conflict and Change Center (see p. 29) has created a number of mechanisms for helping people at the University of Minnesota become more sensitive to conflict and for increasing their ability to respond effectively and positively.

**Negotiation Training** is provided for University personnel in two one-day courses.

A **Mediation Program** has trained and supervises sixteen volunteer mediators who work across the University, resolving interpersonal and intergroup disputes.

**Unit Consultation** is a broad program assisting University departments and organizations in analyzing and assessing conflict in their own organization and in managing conflict by using appropriate techniques.

## ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

■ **Environmental Resource Center.** CURA, in cooperation with a group of environmentally active graduate students, is developing a feasibility study for a University Environmental Resource Center. The center would provide a central clearinghouse for University of Minnesota students, faculty, and interested citizens on information about research, educational meetings, courses, and other environmental activities. It might also develop a newsletter and put on workshops. The project initially will concentrate on producing an inventory of current University of Minnesota research about the environment. The research inventory will be completed in the spring of 1992. A decision about the long-term future of the Environmental Resource Center will be made by June 1992.

■ **Water Quality in the St. Louis River.** The St. Louis River System has been designated as an "Area of Concern" because it does not meet designated water quality standards. Two projects involving faculty from the University of Minnesota-Duluth are working to correct this situation. Through CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31), a professor of chemical engineering is identifying baseline environmental data that will be used by the Toxics Technical Advisory Committee in making recommendations for a remedial action plan. The other project, funded through the Center for Community and Regional Research (see p. 30), is focusing on how land use practices along the St. Louis River are affecting pollution through runoff into the river.

■ **Groundwater in Southeastern Minnesota**. The Duschee Creek watershed near Lanesboro was studied by a professor and a graduate student in geology and a professor in soil science. They assessed changes in the quality of the groundwater that people are drinking in that area and how these changes might relate to human activities. Their study resulted in a series of recommended actions that the county and individuals living in the area might take to further protect themselves and their water supply. The study was supported by grants from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources and CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31).

■ **Health Risks of Incinerating Garbage**. A professor in the School of Public Health worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in assessing the health risks of incinerating garbage. Major emission substances were quantified and characterized. Mathematical models were developed to describe what happens to the chemicals in the environment and then to assess the public dangers that they present. A summary of the work was published in the *CURA Reporter*. The study was supported by a grant through CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31).

■ **Recycling Attitudes and Behavior**. Recycling is becoming an important part of our country's waste disposal system. Two professors of social psychology and one of their graduate students surveyed Hennepin County residents to measure and compare attitudes about recycling with actual participation in recycling programs. They found positive attitudes but relatively low participation rates. They were able to identify a number of factors that predict recycling behavior. The study was supported through CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31).

■ **Water Management and Use**. The newly developing relationships between state governments and American Indians in the critical area of water management and use are being examined. Experiences in six states will be studied: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico. Together these states have a large and diverse Indian population which has been involved in important ways in the questions of management and use of water resources. Work will be carried out in cooperation with the Council of State Legislatures and appropriate American Indian organizations.

■ **Mississippi River Environmental Inventory**. The Mississippi River is an environmental barometer for the core of the nation. In the middle two-fifths of the country anything that fouls the environment inside the Mississippi's basin is proclaimed by changes in the river. CURA was asked by the McKnight Foundation to collect a baseline of environmental data on the river. The resulting maps give a picture of the current level of environmental quality, activities that affect the environment, and human ability to cope with environmental issues.

■ **Conservation History of Voyageurs National Park.** After the decline and subsequent demise of timber harvesting in the late 1920s, the northern region of Minnesota was faced with the results of forty years of haphazard land policies. What now is Voyageurs National Park was devastated by slash and burn logging practices. A serious fire situation existed, poaching was decimating game populations, a large percentage of land was tax delinquent, and numerous social problems remained to be solved. A professor and student in history at the University of Minnesota-Duluth are writing a history of the evolution of conservation and land practices in the park area. The project is sponsored thorough the Center for Community and Regional Research (see p. 30).

■ **International Wolf Center**. A team of professors from the University of Minnesota-Duluth conducted a program development survey for the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota. Their survey was designed to help the center in developing and marketing new and existing programs. The survey was provided through the Center for Community and Regional Research in Duluth (see p. 30 for more about this center).

■ **Chemical Weed Control on Public Highways**. Working with the Midwest Consortium on Groundwater and Farm Chemicals and The Minnesota Project, a graduate student has researched the use of chemicals in controlling weeds along the shoulders and ditches of public roadsides. Chemicals have caused a number of problems and an alternative to chemical control, known as Integrative Roadside Management, has been used successfully in several areas. CURA funded the student half time and will publish details of the study in the *CURA Reporter*.

■ **Disposing of Hazardous Waste**. A CURA-sponsored graduate student in political science is examining the politics of establishing hazardous waste sites in Minnesota. The project compares attitudes of public officials (Office of Waste Management personnel and legislators) and citizens (residents of Red Lake and Koochiching counties) on the risk and need for hazardous waste facilities. Differences in attitude will be examined to see what role this has played in the state's inability to site a facility in the 1980s.

■ **Wind Power**. Wind energy played an important role in rural Minnesota before the Rural Electrification Act. A graduate student in mechanical engineering, with CURA support and data from the state's Wind Resource Assessment Program, calculated what role wind might play in Minnesota's energy picture today. A summary of the findings was published in the *CURA Reporter*.

■ **Marketing Recycled Materials**. The amount of solid waste in Minnesota is rising and recycling is becoming a larger part of the disposal solution. With funding from the Northwest Area Foundation, CURA sponsored a workshop to help selected public and private sector people develop a strategy for marketing Minnesota's recycled materials. A background report was developed to aid the participants in their work and the workshop produced an innovative *Blueprint for Action*.

■ **Market Analysis for Recycling Material**. The Metropolitan Council requested assistance for their work in developing markets for recycled materials. A graduate student collected and analyzed data on the status and characteristics of markets for major secondary materials such as paper, glass, aluminum, and ferrous metals and prepared a report for the council's Solid Waste Division. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details).

■ **How Did Agriculture Become an Industry?** A researcher from the Land Stewardship Project is spending a year at CURA as a visiting scholar. He is examining how federal policies and agribusiness advertising since World War II have promulgated industrial approaches to agriculture. His research also explores the impact industrial agriculture has had on the family farm and the environment in the Midwest, and traces the development and promise of alternative farming approaches that have emerged in recent years.

■ **Sustainable Agriculture**. The Northwest Area Foundation has funded surveys of farmers across the Midwest. CURA's Minnesota Center for Survey Research (see p. 30) provided technical assistance so that the state-by-state surveys would yield compatible results. In addition, MCSR conducted the Minnesota survey for the Land Stewardship Project. Traditional farmers and those practicing sustainable agriculture were asked about farming techniques and practices, sources of farming knowledge, and economic issues.

■ **Emerging Issues for Natural Resources and the Environment**. The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) needs to identify emerging issues to guide its funding and monitoring activities. Two graduate students, recruited through CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details), worked with LCMR staff in the legislature, state agencies, universities, and private organizations to collect and analyze information.

■ **Environment and Development**. CURA's associate director Thomas Anding was one of fifty-four people, representing thirty countries, selected to attend a two-week international seminar in Salzburg, Austria on the tradeoffs between protecting the environment and economic development. Participation of people from the Upper Midwest in seminars at Salzburg has been made possible by the McKnight Foundation. The seminar was fruitful for the delegates, but more importantly, a statement was prepared that will be presented to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

■ **Environmental Course Bulletin**. CURA continues to publish a guide to courses about the environment at the University of Minnesota. The course bulletin has been issued yearly since 1985 as a supplement to official University bulletins. It includes an additional section describing special Minnesota centers, services, and libraries within and outside the University that deal with the environment.

■ **Radon**. CURA sponsored a study of two residential neighborhoods in Rochester, Minnesota to compare radon in the soil with indoor radon levels in sixty-five homes. Positive correlations were found. The topographically highest area also had the highest radon levels in soil and in homes. This type of study could be used to predict indoor radon problems before home construction begins.

# HOUSING

■ **Metropolitan Regional Housing Issues**. Demographic and economic changes will have enormous impact on the Twin Cities metro area housing stock and needs. A CURA staff person is co-chairing the Metropolitan Council's Regional Housing Task Force as it examines these issues and recommends legislative strategies to address housing needs.

■ **Affordable Housing in Rochester and Olmsted County**. Are there housing problems in the third wealthiest county in the state? A team of faculty and graduate students from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs completed a needs assessment for the Rochester/Olmsted Community Housing Partnership to document the housing problems faced by lower income households in Olmsted County. The project was a group internship supported by CURA and the Humphrey Institute. It involved over thirty community volunteers as well as staff at city and county offices.

■ **Fair Housing.** The Twin Cities is the largest urban area in the country without an organization dedicated specifically to insuring that all persons, of whatever class or race, enjoy equal housing opportunities. CURA supported a graduate student to work on a HUD-directed project in Minneapolis, looking, first, to determine if significant discrimination exists in the rental housing market in one Minneapolis neighborhood, and second, to establish a fair housing organization that would be responsible for monitoring violations of fair housing laws. A fair-housing survey was conducted in the Phillips neighborhood with the help of the neighborhood organization and the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights. As a result, a new nonprofit organization, the Minnesota Fair Housing Center, has been incorporated, dedicated to promoting fair housing opportunities throughout Minnesota.

■ **Local Capacity to Provide Housing Programs**. Some cities and counties do not have the capacity to take advantage of state and federal housing programs. CURA received funding from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to study the use of various housing programs by cities across

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Minnesota. This provides an indicator of which cities have the capacity and which need additional help to make use of existing programs. Data about where federal and state housing programs have been used successfully have been summarized and mapped and a final report delivered to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

■ **Twin Cities Affordable Housing Collaborative (TCAHC).** The project provided a half-time student as a staff person to work with TCAHC on its research and advocacy for affordable housing in the Twin Cities. It included distributing the results of an extensive survey of nonprofit housing developers and participation in the Governor's Affordable Housing Task Force. The work continues as one of the responsibilities of a newly created position within the Minneapolis-St. Paul Family Housing Fund.

■ **Affordable Housing Research Inventory.** This project surveyed the research needs of government agencies, community groups, and housing developers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area who are concerned with affordable housing. Findings from the literature survey and both faculty and agency contacts emphasized the following needs: financial tools and policy strategies to support and encourage affordable housing, accurate neighborhood level data, definition of the extent of homelessness, and better matching of services to affordable housing.

■ **Whittier Neighborhood Housing Study.** This project served as a case study to determine what level of data exists during intercensus periods to describe changes in a neighborhood's housing conditions and residential patterns. The study was done for the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing and in cooperation with the Whittier Alliance. The project resulted in a much clearer understanding of neighborhood level data and increased cooperation among neighborhood programs in Whittier.

■ **Mixed Populations in Senior Highrises**. In the 1980s Minneapolis began mixing mentally- or physically-disabled persons of all ages into its buildings for seniors. This has had an unknown impact on the interactions and adaptation of the elderly themselves. CURA supported a doctoral student, working with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, who examined that impact and what factors may help make this a positive experience for the seniors.

■ **Operating Low Income Housing**. A professor in agricultural and applied economics compared the cost of operating low income housing in rental units and in cooperative units. Comparable housing projects were selected to be as similar as possible and operating costs were examined over a four-year period. There was a significant savings in cooperatively-owned projects, suggesting that public policies to encourage cooperative ownership make sense. The project was funded through CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31) and an article about the findings was published in the *CURA Reporter*.

## HUMAN SERVICES

■ **Paternity Decisions.** Establishing legal paternity for children born out-of-wedlock can bring many benefits that the child would otherwise lack. The recent dramatic growth in out-of-wedlock births has escalated the number of children growing up without legal paternity. This study, supported by the Ford Foundation, looked at factors that encourage or discourage avowing paternity. Three hundred and thirty-four Hennepin County unmarried parents were interviewed by same race, same gender graduate students. The mothers were twenty-one or younger and on welfare. The study explored family and peer experiences, attitudes and expectations, and demographic and socioeconomic variables that differentiate parents who acknowledge paternity and those who did not. The study discovered that the time in the hospital during birth of the child is the most teachable moment and it recommended that this time be used to encourage a legal link between father and child. The study is receiving national attention and is the basis for legislation sponsored in Minnesota by the Children's Defense Fund.

■ **Paternity Decisions Among Non-AFDC Parents.** A study similar to the Ford Foundation study above (paternity decisions) is underway with funding from the McKnight Foundation. Fifty unmarried young mothers who are not AFDC recipients are being interviewed by graduate students of the same race.

■ **Service to Families with Disabled Children.** In 1985 the state of Minnesota mandated that all health, education, and social service agencies serving families of young children with disabilities must collaborate on the development of an integrated early intervention service system. Each community in northeastern Minnesota participates in one of nine local interagency coordinating committees that develop policy, procedures, and services for the early intervention system. These interagency coordinating committees represent six counties in a geographic area of over 17,000 square miles. A professor and students in the Department of Child and Family Development at the University of Minnesota-Duluth are assisting the

nine interagency coordinating committees in examining the processes they have developed in response to the 1985 mandate. It is hoped that the strengths displayed by local agencies can be used to facilitate intra-regional networking and supportive collaborations. This work is funded through the Center for Community and Regional Research in Duluth (see p. 30).

■ **Twin Cities Interpreter Project.** People who don't speak English often have trouble getting health care or being treated justly in the courts. The professional competence of an interpreter is as much a problem as obtaining an interpreter. This project was organized in 1989 in response to the growing recognition of a need for better community interpreting. People from the University of Minnesota and local hospitals and clinics have begun working together to upgrade interpreting in Minnesota. The project assessed local needs and in 1990 investigated models for community interpreter training in this country and abroad. A report on these models, *Professional Training for Community Interpreters*, will soon be published. In 1991 the project began its own training program for health care interpreters, offered through the University of Minnesota and funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement. The long-term goal of the project is to see interpreter training become part of the curricula at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in Minnesota colleges and universities. Plans for creating classes in legal interpretation and for establishing a twenty-four hour interpreter referral service are being explored.

■ **Ending Welfare Dependency.** Better Opportunities through Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) was a demonstration program in St. Paul that sought to assist people in moving out of welfare dependency. It was sponsored by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Affairs and administered through the St. Paul Housing Information Office. CURA was asked to evaluate the program. Two graduate students and a professor in the Humphrey Institute and the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel surveyed the participants and learned how difficult achieving self-sufficiency can be. The difficulties of single parents were especially highlighted.

■ **Neighborhood-based Care for the Elderly**. The Metropolitan Council, the Block Nurse Program, the Living at Home Project, and local neighborhoods collaborated to develop a strategic action plan that would gain long-term public financing for neighborhood-based services for the elderly. A graduate student was assigned to the Metropolitan Council to staff this effort. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details).

■ **Homeless Youth**. Life House is a project designed to respond to the crisis of homeless youth in Duluth. A needs

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assessment was conducted to determine how large the demand was for help. The numbers rise in the summer months when youth look for ways to escape bad situations at home. The assessment was done by a student-faculty team through the Center for Community and Regional Research (see p. 30).

■ **Mandatory Case Planning for Minor Mothers.** In 1987 Minnesota mandated that a case plan be prepared by county social workers for every new minor mother and her child. However, No new funds were appropriated to carry out the mandate. This study examined how Minnesota counties responded to the mandate. The size of the county proved to be a pivotal factor. Small counties did not have the resources for full-scale implementation. Medium-sized counties were most effective in preparing case plans and coordinating community resources. Large urban counties, understaffed and over-stressed, worked chiefly with high risk mothers. The mandate was not realistic in view of the already overburdened child welfare system.

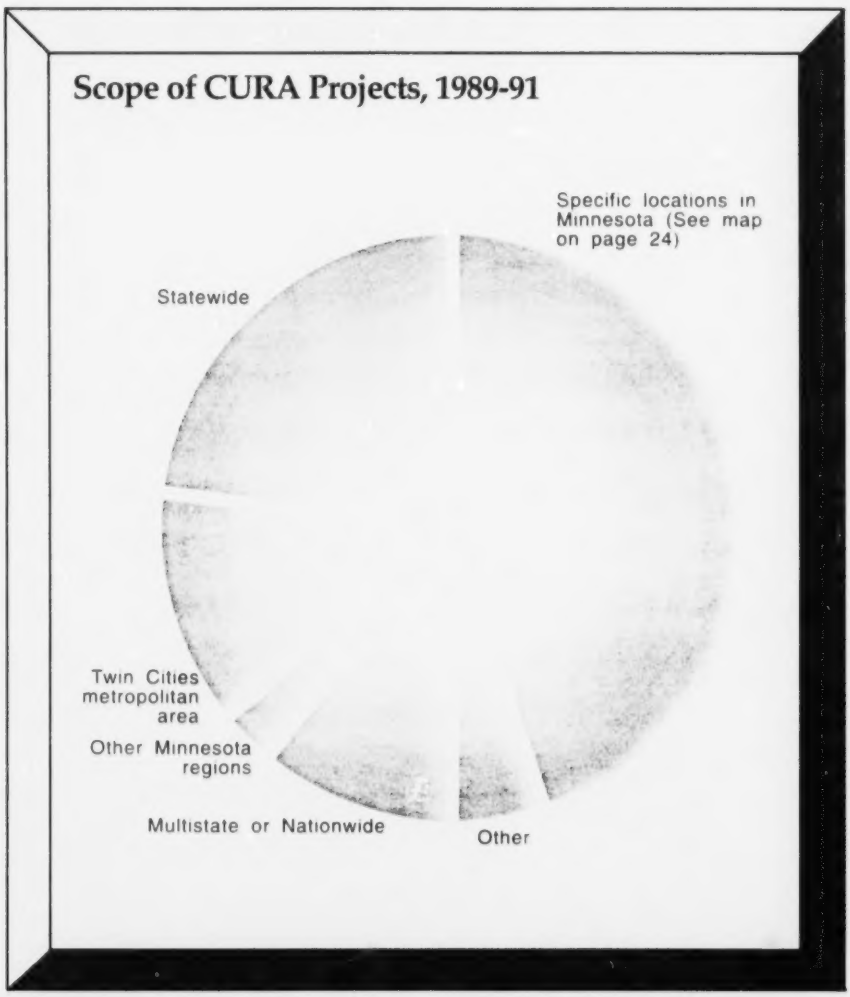
■ **Child Care Workers Conference.** In 1990 CURA helped plan and co-sponsored a conference on working conditions for child care workers in Minnesota. The conference covered a variety of education and organizing strategies for improving the wages and working conditions of this most basic industry. The conference was repeated in 1991 and, like the first, attracted over one hundred participants. It has helped publicize unionization and other self-help strategies for child care workers.

■ **Discharge Planning for the Elderly.** A study is examining the process of discharge planning for elderly patients in three Twin Cities hospitals. Complex decisions are often made with multiple decision makers. This is a pilot study, supported by a seed grant from AUCA (see p. 28) that is refining the methodology for a larger study. It is hoped that the research will eventually improve the decision making process.

■ **Evaluation of Our House**. Our House provides transitional housing for mentally ill women in Duluth who are homeless. A student and faculty team from the University of Minnesota-Duluth conducted a formative evaluation of their program, which seeks to place residents into permanent housing situations. The evaluation was used to assist the program staff in creating a program that fits the needs of their clients. A structure for tracking residents was provided that will allow staff to assess long-term as well as short-term goals. The evaluation was provided through the Center for Community and Regional Research (see p. 30).

■ **Battered Women**. Each year thousands of Minnesota women flee violent relationships and face the challenge of rebuilding their lives. A doctoral student in the School of Social Work conducted intensive interviews with fifteen formerly battered women to find out what problems they faced and what helped in their adjustment after they left their violent partners. The study was made possible by a grant through CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31).

■ **Keeping the Elderly Out of Nursing Homes**. With assistance from CURA, a professor of family practice (Medical School) is developing tools to help the elderly stay relatively healthy and in their homes longer. A self-administered questionnaire has been developed that can identify persons who are in need of comprehensive care while their problems are still reversible. Comprehensive care is provided by a coordinated team including a physician, nurse, and social worker. These ideas are being tested on a small scale and appear successful.



■ **Where Older Drivers Make Mistakes**. Some driving situations are more likely to cause older drivers to make mistakes than others. A seed grant from the All University Council on Aging (see p. 28) to a professor of kinesiology, and a subsequent larger grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, is helping to better identify and understand such driving situations through a driving simulator and on-road testing. Results will be useful for new education programs and road design.

■ **Community Resources for Eldercare.** This project established a comprehensive database of long-term care resources that will be used in the Metropolitan Senior Federation's Eldercare Counseling and Referral program. Those long-term care resources that may be involved in the development of a preferred provider network were also identified.

■ **Distributing Donated Food.** In 1989, CURA assisted the Minnesota Food Shelf Association in a survey of all Minnesota food shelves. The flow of dollars and food was tracked throughout the state and the staffing pattern of food shelves was described. Among the findings: 70 percent of food shelves in Minnesota have no paid staff, food shelves (on average) must rely on 75 percent of their food coming from local food drives and purchases, food shelves could "rarely" provide for special dietary needs, and all shelves most frequently ran out of protein items first. As need has increased, resources (on a per capita basis) have decreased.

■ **Day Care Regulation**. Those who regulate day care centers have too little knowledge about what is normal sexual behavior among young children. CURA is funding a professor in the Institute of Child Development to work with both the regulators (state and county) and the providers in developing a survey about sexual behavior among young children. The survey will be sent to day care providers who work with young children and who understand normal behavior and successful ways of coping with abnormal behavior. Results should be available this spring.

■ **Minneapolis Youth Trust**. The Buddy System is a successful program matching volunteers with kids in mentoring/tutoring/friendship relationships. The program had not been targeting the volunteers most needed—African American businessmen. CURA provided summer support for a student to develop recruitment and programmatic material specifically aimed at these African Americans.

■ **Avocational Interests of the Aging**. A study of the relationship between leisure activity and life satisfaction in older adults is underway through a seed grant from the All University Council on Aging (see p. 28). Psychometric scales that measure leisure interests are also being evaluated to see if they are valid when used with older adults.

■ **Problem Pregnancies**. A sub-group of poor pregnant women covered by Minnesota's Medicaid program had disturbingly low rates of prenatal visits and quite high rates of delivery by caesarean section (in excess of 50 percent). The Minnesota Department of Human Services was concerned by this and asked for assistance in studying the data to develop strategies that will improve prenatal care and yield healthier outcomes for similar mothers and newborns. A graduate student worked with the department's manager of Research and Evaluation and research staff on the problem. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details).

■ **Rural Caregivers of Demented Elders.** Family members who provide care for elders afflicted with Alzheimer's disease or other dementing illnesses are often the main source of health and social care for these persons. Such caregiving is time-consuming and taxing. A team of University researchers is evaluating a program designed to enhance the family members' abilities to cope with their elders' troubling behaviors. The evaluation is funded through a seed grant from the All University Council on Aging (see p. 28).

■ **Foster Children in Long-Term Care.** A large and growing number of children remain in foster home care without stable family connections. CURA provided seed money to develop a proposal for a federally-funded project to explore this situation. The proposal was developed in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the School of Social Work.

■ **Language Fluency in Alzheimer's Disease**. Memory, attention, and learning deficits, including language, are the primary cognitive impairments that come to people with dementia. Changes in language fluency were studied by comparing normal elderly with those that had Alzheimer's. The research, sponsored by a seed grant from the All University Council on Aging (see p. 28), also provided information on fluency in the normal elderly.

# LAND USE AND POPULATION

■ **GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Education**. GIS technology is sweeping the country, but people need to be educated in how best to use this new tool. State and local governments see GIS as a solution for many day-to-day operations, from updating tax maps, to summarizing and analyzing information. Companies tend to provide training in how to use their software, but not on underlying assumptions, management issues, or the potential uses of the technology. CURA has taken a lead in helping to bring this education to state and local governments in Minnesota.

**State Conference.** CURA Assistant Director William Craig was the conference chair for the 1991 Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium Conference (Geographic Information Systems/Land Information Systems). Five hundred people attended the three-day event of workshops, presentations, and technical exhibits. Another conference is planned for 1992.

**International Conference.** The 1993 GIS/LIS Conference will be held in Minneapolis, giving Minnesotans a chance to participate in this international event. Minnesota was chosen because of our work in GIS and because of strong local support. CURA will play a key role on the local arrangements committee.

**Training Course.** CURA organized and presented a two-day training course in 1990 for Minnesota Department of Natural Resources personnel who will be leading the implementation of GIS throughout that agency. The University's Department of Geography was also involved in the course.

**Local URISA Chapter.** CURA handles many administrative duties for the local chapter of URISA (Urban and Regional Information Systems Association). Each year four to five meetings are held emphasizing some aspect of GIS. Approximately fifty people attend each meeting—mostly state and local government personnel. In February 1991, in cooperation with the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative, the chapter subscribed to a satellite course on GIS implementation from the University of Wisconsin. The course was offered at five sites across the state and drew nearly a hundred people.

**International Geographic Information Foundation.** This foundation is supported by four major professional associations and spends its money on scholarships and fellowships in GIS. Craig serves as one of thirteen trustees.

■ **Hazardous Materials Risk Assessment in Minneapolis**. With CURA support, a professor of geography is collecting and analyzing Minneapolis data about where hazardous materials are stored and used, as well as data about the location of vulnerable populations, such as hospitals, schools, and nursing homes. A geographic information system is being used, both to store the data and to model the areas that would be impacted by a potential accident. The results (data and models) will be given to the city of Minneapolis for its emergency planning efforts.

■ **History of Urban Development in St. Paul.** CURA is funding an historical geographer to inventory, map, and analyze 150 years of urban development in St. Paul. The study will concentrate on the downtown, surrounding transportation infrastructure, and the changing nature and location of economic activities.

■ **Minnesota Land Use and Valuation**. A crescent-shaped area consisting of nineteen counties runs southeast and then south from St. Cloud through the Twin Cities to Rochester. It comprises the nucleus of Minnesota's population and its non-agricultural economic activity. CURA researchers are working with a geographer in a major study evaluating changes in the value of land and buildings in this area through the past fifteen years. The relationship of changes in land and building value to location, land use, population, new construction, infrastructure, and inflation will contribute to our understanding of the evolving urban system of the state and the Upper Midwest region.

■ **Market Analysis**. The planning and design of public places requires estimates of the number of people who will be using a new facility. In the past biennium CURA has provided two organizations with such estimates. Both required information about use patterns at similar facilities around the country and the geographic distribution of potential users near the planned facility.

**St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail and Visitors Center.** The St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board asked CURA to give an estimate of the number of visitors to this new facility. With an active program, 100,000 annual visitors should be possible. If the area catches on as a popular recreation site, the number could easily double.

**Camp Ripley State Veterans' Cemetery.** The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs asked CURA to analyze the potential use of this proposed cemetery. Our numbers showed too little use to justify creating a new veterans' cemetery.

■ **GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Capacity Building**. CURA has provided graduate student support to agencies trying to enhance their use of GIS technology. Those developments will help other agencies and local governments across the state.

**Data Exchange Project.** The most expensive aspect of creating a GIS is creating the data base. Many public dollars would be saved if data bases could be shared, yet this is not happening. CURA funded a research assistant at the state Land Management Information Center to look at the technical problems of exchanging data. The use of a simple file transfer standard, such as DXF, was recommended and numerous ways to improve the quality of data were also noted, so that they could be used by others.

**Computerized Street Data.** In urban areas, good computerized street data are needed for redistricting, economic development, evacuation planning, and other applications of GIS technology. The Metropolitan Council has been enhancing the TIGER files for the seven-county metropolitan area. Three

different graduate students have assisted in this work. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details). The files were used in the state legislature for redistricting and are now being distributed throughout the metropolitan area.

**Soils Data.** For rural areas, the most necessary data item is a good soil map. The University's Department of Soil Science has been producing these data files for Minnesota counties, but the data are hard for local governments unfamiliar with GIS to access and interpret. CURA supported a research assistant to develop a user-friendly front-end for EPPL7, the GIS package used in most counties.

■ **Statewide Land Use Mapping**. The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) has funded an $800,000 project to update the state's land use map using aerial photography. The result will be a computerized map that will be of use to state and local government, for example for local water planning. CURA's assistant director chairs the multi-agency committee that is overseeing the project.

■ **Land Use and Light Rail Transit**. CURA has received a grant from the Center for Transportation Studies to look at the impact of land use patterns around transit stations upon transit ridership. The work is being conducted by a Ph.D. student who is a visiting scholar from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Portland, Oregon is the area being studied and the results will help us better understand and predict ridership for proposed light rail transit in the Twin Cities.

■ **Analyzing and Mapping 1990 Census**. The results of the 1990 Census of Population and Housing are now becoming available. CURA helped the University of Minnesota develop its Machine Readable Data Center for distributing this data throughout the state. We are now working to help potential users understand this resource and how to access it, analyze the data, and distribute the results to Minnesotans.

**Census Conference.** CURA helped organize a two-day state conference on the 1990 census in conjunction with the University's Center for Population Analysis and Policy.

**Metropolitan Maps.** CURA funded an intern to work at the Metropolitan Council preparing maps that show 1990 population patterns and changes since the 1980 census. Of particular interest is the change in racial distribution. Minorities are much less concentrated within the metropolitan region now than they were in 1980.

**State Population Maps.** CURA is preparing two new Minnesota wall maps. One map will use data to show the 1990 population distribution. The other map will show population change, 1980 to 1990.

■ **Vacant Land in the Twin Cities**. An inventory and analysis of the pattern of vacant land in Minneapolis and St. Paul was conducted to see if the urban land market is functioning efficiently and to examine what roles the public and private sectors play in the recycling of land from one use to another. The results have been published in a monograph: *Vacant Lands in Minneapolis and St. Paul: An Examination of the Urban Land Market in the Central City.*

■ **Population Change**. CURA funded a professor of geography to study population change in Minnesota cities. Early work showed a remarkable stability among small towns, and even some growth. The 1990 Census, however, has revealed that the 1980s were the toughest decade in history for small towns in Minnesota. Results of this study have appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

■ **Broadcast Towers**. A graduate student in geography researched the complexities of siting broadcast towers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and wrote an article about it for the *CURA Reporter*.

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# MINORITIES AND DISADVANTAGED

■ **Communiversity Personnel Grant Program** was designed to help organizations run by minorities or serving minorities by making the research or technical assistance services of graduate students at the University of Minnesota available for short-term projects. During the past two years eighty-seven projects received CURA support. The projects described here illustrate the breadth and scope of the program. For more information about the program see p. 30.

**Minnesota State Bar Association—Family Law Task Force.** A comprehensive review of the Minnesota family law system was undertaken with the objective of recommending ideas and solutions that would result in a more workable system for resolving family law disputes. A graduate student worked with staff on the entire project, including a written report.

**The White Earth Land Recovery Project** is a nonprofit Chippewa organization dedicated to recovering lands in private and public ownership that were originally part of the White Earth Indian Reservation. Several graduate students have researched land issues and titles for the project. The organization also markets maple syrup, wild rice, berries and other indigenous products. A CURA student prepared an extensive bibliography on production and marketing with local plants.

**Upward Bound, University of Minnesota,** is a college preparatory program for low income and minority students in Minneapolis junior and senior high schools which has been operating since 1965. CURA graduate students have been involved in several phases of an eight-year follow-up study of Upward Bound high school graduates to track how well the program prepares students for further education.

**The Minnesota Hispanic Education Program** is a private nonprofit corporation which has provided scholarships to Hispanic students since 1982. A CURA graduate student developed a survey, interviewed past scholarship recipients, and collected data on the use of scholarship funds and the impact of awards.

**United Negro College Fund, Inc.** is a fundraising agent for forty-two historically African American colleges and universities. A graduate student developed a system for tracking local alumni from forty-two member institutions to provide networking opportunities for their alumni and increase awareness of these colleges and universities by the African American population in Minnesota.

**The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project** in Duluth coordinates the intervention of community agencies in domestic assault cases. A graduate student worked on a research project examining recidivism rates and the factors that might predict recidivism for a group of ninety-eight batterers.

**CHART/WEDCO** (now WomenVenture) is a nonprofit organization that has developed a national reputation in providing business training for low income women and other non-traditional entrepreneurs. A CURA student took curriculum designed for use in Minnesota and packaged them for use by other organizations across the United States and Canada. The student also produced a workbook for use by low income women in developing their businesses.

**North American Council on Adoptable Children** in St. Paul is a nonprofit organization focused on the needs of children in substitute care who are identified for adoption. Several gradu-

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ate students worked with the council to prepare the first comprehensive listing of research on adoption and foster care issues. They focused particularly on transracial adoption and on special needs adoption, and how adoption influences a child's self-esteem and long-range capacity to function as an adult. A final report has been made available to an international network of social work professionals, parents, and advocates.

**The Seward Neighborhood Group** in Minneapolis has over 200 active members. Responding to an outbreak of juvenile gang crimes, the corporation used several CURA graduate students to survey and analyze the community's experience with juvenile crime. Their report was used to improve the neighborhood's anticrime initiative and to help other neighborhoods with similar problems.

**The Jordan Area Community Council** operates in north Minneapolis. A student worked on the campaign to educate residents on strategies for reducing drug activity and to organize residents in working against drug activity in their neighborhood.

**The Urban Coalition** is a public policy research and advocacy organization serving low income people and communities of color in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. A graduate student worked with coalition staff to examine the participation of students of color in the high school open enrollment program for the 1989-90 academic year.

**The Community University Health Care Clinic (CUHCC)** in Minneapolis offers medical, dental, and mental health services to low income families. A graduate student worked with staff and professionals to determine the program and financial feasibility of a day treatment program for Southeast Asians. The study was funded through the Bush Foundation.

**The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association** in south Minneapolis formed a task force to look at the problems of housing near Chicago Avenue in the older part of the central city. A graduate student worked with the task force and existing neighborhood groups to identify problems such as poverty, drugs, and substandard and overcrowded housing. The information collected was used to formulate a comprehensive housing strategy for the improvement of the neighborhood.

**The Minnesota Citizens Council on Crime and Justice** was established in 1957 to help deal with problems associated with crime. A graduate student organized the agency's extensive collection of books, research reports, published articles, and audio video materials into a user-friendly library. The student also created a computer data base for easy retrieval of information.

**MIGIZI Communications, Inc.** is a nonprofit American Indian news agency in Minneapolis that produces "First Person Radio's Week in Review," the first nationally syndicated American Indian news magazine on radio. A graduate student assisted in the production of a public service announcement video for promoting the radio show and researched and developed a strategy for the video's distribution. A network of television contacts was also developed within First Person Radio's national broadcasting regions.

**The Westminster Corporation** provides housing for low income families, senior citizens, and handicapped persons at twenty-five locations in seventeen Minnesota communities and, in partnership with other nonprofit groups, has developed or renovated over 1,800 housing units. Working with the staff of the corporation, a graduate student evaluated the effectiveness of resident services programs at twelve subsidized housing locations serving over 700 households. The evaluation was distributed nationally because of the interest in this kind of collaboration between housing and human service providers.

**Chrysalis, a Center for Women** is a multi-service agency serving women who are in crisis or transition. A graduate student worked to increase the capacity of Chrysalis to serve women of diverse cultures by expanding the cultural awareness of staff, board, and volunteers. Training programs were designed and an assessment test developed to measure cultural awareness before and after the programs.

**The W. Harry Davis Foundation's** primary goal, in its fifth year of operation, is to improve the quality of life for African Americans by developing and nurturing African American leadership. The organization, realizing a need for a mentoring program in the African American community, used a student to research formal and informal mentoring programs, their rationale, and effectiveness.

**The Boise Forte Indian Reservation** at Nett Lake in northern Minnesota needed to revise and develop personnel policies and procedures for reservation employees. A graduate student from the University of Minnesota-Duluth developed and revised the policies and produced a new personnel manual for Boise Forte employees.

■ **Black AIDS**. How individuals respond to the risk of AIDS is a function of personal knowledge, attitudes, and behavior (KAB). The Minnesota Department of Health is developing programs to improve the population's response. If KAB is different among some portions of the state's African American population than the mainstream population, then health department programs will have to be tailored to reach them. CURA's Minnesota Center for Survey Research (see p. 30) did the survey work in a study for the health department to determine just what differences there are in KAB among African Americans in Minnesota. A professor of Afro-American and African Studies headed the study and CURA provided supplemental funds. The final report has been delivered and is being studied by the Department of Health.

■ **Aspirations of Hmong Adolescents**. CURA began this longitudinal study that is now receiving continuing funds from the National Institute of Mental Health. It is a collaborative effort involving a professor of anthropology and a professor of sociology who are looking at the achievement prospects for the next generation of Hmong. Both parents and youth were interviewed. While the parents tend to be relatively poor, without good English skills, and without jobs, their children are doing well both in school achievement and in mental health. The parents have high aspirations for their children and the adolescents share this view. The scholars are now analyzing their data to pinpoint why Hmong adolescents do so well, especially when compared to other adolescents from low income families.

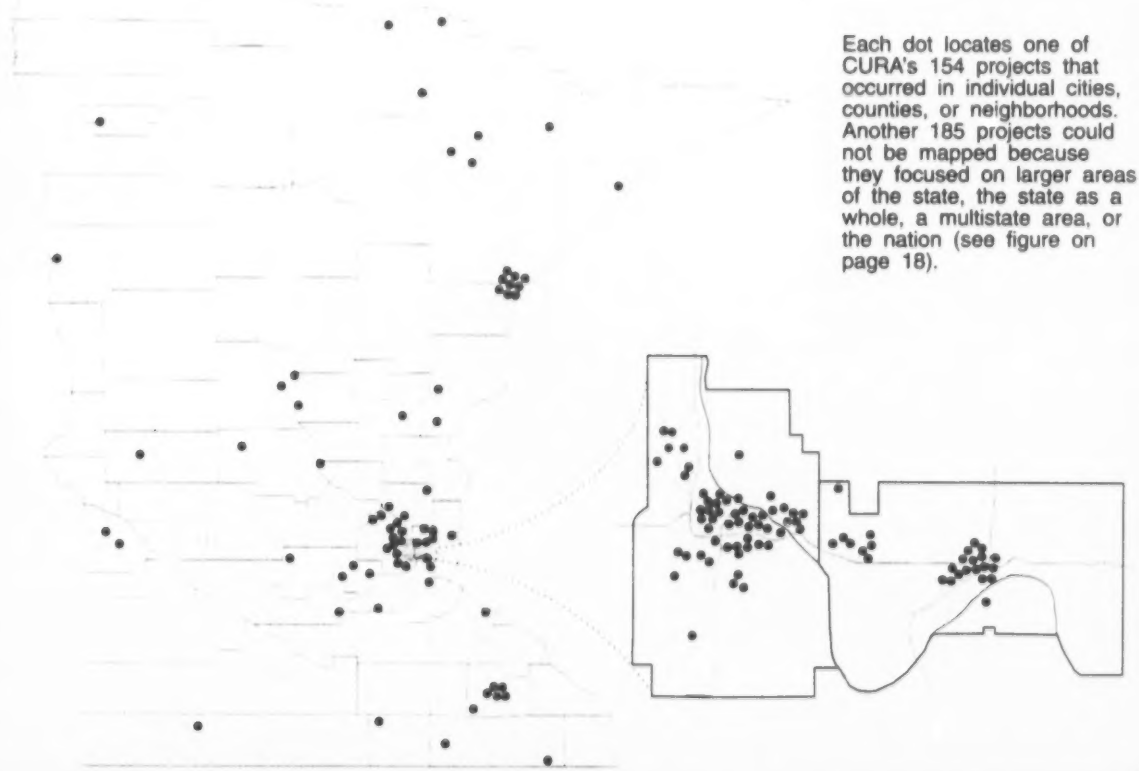
■ **Transportation on Indian Reservations**. Lack of reliable transportation on rural Indian reservations limits employment opportunities and endangers human life and property. CURA has

obtained funds from the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota to work on better defining the needs on the reservations and looking at possible solutions. Community surveys have been conducted at most reservations in Minnesota and one tribe has already begun discussions with the Minnesota Department of Transportation about how to transport its people to a nearby employment center. This initial work in Minnesota inspired the federally-funded Mountains-Plains Consortium to ask CURA to expand the work to North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Findings in these states may lead to new transportation initiatives on Minnesota reservations as well.

■ **Leadership for Black Women.** For three years CURA has provided a graduate research assistant for this successful program at the University's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The program helps African American women participate fully and effectively in the American workforce—for pay and as community volunteers. LBW works in the community, in academic courses, through the media, and through research to reach its major constituencies: black women, black women's organizations, employers, and the general public. Both businesses and African American women have high praise for the work of this center.

■ **Economic Progress of Asian Refugees.** A French anthropologist was a visiting scholar with the Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project (see p. 28) for ten months during 1991. He carried out extensive research on the economic progress of Southeast Asian refugees in Minnesota, particularly the Hmong. The study matches similar investigation into the economic progress of Southeast

## CURA Project Sites, 1989-91



Each dot locates one of CURA's 154 projects that occurred in individual cities, counties, or neighborhoods. Another 185 projects could not be mapped because they focused on larger areas of the state, the state as a whole, a multistate area, or the nation (see figure on page 18).

Asian refugees who settled in France. His research in Minnesota was funded by a grant from the International Rotary Foundation. Summary articles on his findings will be published in the near future.

■ **Equal Opportunity Announcements and Advertisements.** A directory was compiled and published to make it easier to reach members of groups covered by equal opportunity and affirmative action initiatives. The directory lists newspapers and magazines that accept announcements and advertising and have members of these various groups as their primary audience. It was designed to be helpful to nonprofit advocacy groups and smaller affirmative action employers, enabling them to publicize upcoming events and job openings.

■ **Nonprofit Organizations of Color.** Working with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) and an advisory committee, CURA identified over 150 organizations in Minnesota that were formally incorporated nonprofits, controlled by and/or serving primarily persons of color. These organizations were surveyed about their finances, staff, and programs as part of a larger survey of all Minnesota nonprofits being done at the same time by MCN. The information gathered, both from the survey and from identifying the organizations, was summarized and published as *Nonprofit Organizations of Color in Minnesota: An Overview and Directory* in 1991. To our knowledge this is the first effort in the country to provide a summary view of these organizations.

■ **Hmong Shaman**. The life story of a Hmong shaman living in Chicago was published in a limited edition in Illinois. The professor at Northwestern University who had originally obtained the story asked CURA's Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project to reprint it along with his ethnographic commentary on the place of shamans in Hmong society. This publication, along with an excerpted article from the commentary that appeared in the *CURA Reporter*, have been very helpful to local people working with Hmong refugees by broadening their understanding of a culture that is very different from our own.

■ **Rediscovering America.** To create alternative celebrations to the official marking of the quincentennial of Columbus' arrival in the Americas, a multi-cultural effort planned a series of presentations exploring the impact on the American peoples of the arrival of Western Europeans in the Americas. The first event, a lecture and discussion by Howard Zinn, was attended by 600 people. A planning and strategy meeting for other alternative actions the following day was attended by representatives of over forty organizations. This weekend was followed by several other public presentations including both North and South American Indian activists. Many other events and actions have been scheduled for 1992.

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# POLICY AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

■ **Minnesota County Government**. A cooperative project between the University of Minnesota and the Association of Minnesota Counties, funded by CURA, is surveying all of Minnesota's county commissioners. The goal is to better understand the roles of the commissioners, how they view their jobs, and the agenda and functions of county government now and in the coming years. The survey is also asking for an assessment of the services of the Association of Minnesota Counties. This project is part of a larger comparative study of county governments that includes Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The larger study has been supported by the University of Oslo and the Association of Norwegian County Governments.

■ **Better Management for State Government**. The Carlson/Dyrstad Commission on Reform and Efficiency (CORE) was established and placed in the Department of Administration to improve the management of Minnesota state government. A graduate student is helping this effort by interviewing experts on state government operations, reviewing background literature, and analyzing cost reduction proposals. The project is part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31).

■ **Minneapolis Civilian Review Authority**. Complaints about police misconduct in Minneapolis were handled by the Police Department itself until 1991. A new Civilian Review Authority is now taking those complaints and deciding their validity. With CURA support, a professor of sociology is collecting data on charges (and their disposition) made before the new board was established. This will provide a baseline from which to measure the impact of the new method of dealing with such problems.

■ **Evaluating Delivery of Services in St. Louis County.** St. Louis County has begun a program to improve it's ability to deliver service. To evaluate the success of the program a survey was conducted by a professor of sociology and a team of students. They interviewed residents throughout the county to assess what services they used and what they thought about the services they received and the departments that delivered them. A follow-up survey will be conducted after the new program has been in effect for a year. The study is sponsored jointly by St. Louis County and the Center for Community and Regional Research (see p. 30).

■ **Evaluation of CARE**. The CARE program in Minneapolis (Community and Resource Exchange) is working to provide a holistic response from government to the problems defined by neighborhood people in the community. After a year of helping people in the Jordan neighborhood of north Minneapolis learn how to fight crime and drug dealing, CURA was asked to evaluate the program for the City-County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. Our evaluation was very positive, though we offered some suggestions for improvement.

■ **Comparable Worth in Local Government**. In 1984 the state legislature mandated that equal pay for comparable work was required for all local units of government in Minnesota. A professor of industrial relations has been studying how local governments have responded, what problems have come up, and what changes have been made. His work is supported by a Faculty Research Competition grant (see p. 31) and will be featured soon in the *CURA Reporter*.

■ **Cost Containment for Workers' Compensation**. Lowering the cost of workers' compensation is an important issue in Minnesota. A graduate student worked with the medical study implementation team of the Department of Labor and Industry to develop a uniform billing procedure and a new medical fee schedule. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31).

■ **Improved Data for the Public Defender System**. Current data on statewide public defender caseloads have been inadequate to meet growing needs. The Minnesota State Board of Public Defense requested a graduate student to redesign their data collection system, making it more uniform and reliable. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31).

■ **Attitudes About the Minneapolis Police**. Minneapolis police are developing new programs to improve the way they relate to citizens and to improve their performance. In order to evaluate these programs, they asked CURA's Minnesota Center for Survey Research (see p. 30) to design a survey that would measure the current image of the police and serve as a base against which improvement can be measured. Households in the Fifth Precinct (southwest Minneapolis) were surveyed in the Spring of 1991. CURA funded the survey.

■ **Planning Strategies for Cities**. For decades, acres of poverty have been accumulating in inner cities and they now present a serious threat to the overall well being of the cities. The director of planning for the city of Minneapolis, with support from the McKnight Foundation, spent a year as a visiting scholar at CURA (see p. 32) studying the situation in Minneapolis and seven comparable cities to see if there are planning strategies that can bring permanent improvement to the inner city. His proposed six-point strategy has been published by CURA as a book: *Old Problems in New Times: Urban Strategies for the 1990s*.

■ **Female Police Officers**. A student and a professor in social work at the University of Minnesota-Duluth are investigating how police officers who are women respond to crimes against women. Do female officers respond to violent crimes against women differently than male officers? Are female

officers more sensitive or more willing to take action than male officers? What factors are important in the career advancement of female officers? Is specialization in crimes against women important, and if so, how? Do personal characteristics, such as age, rank, size of department, and personal history of victimization affect female officers' perceptions? The study is a project of the Center for Community and Regional Research (see p. 30).

■ **Impact of New Rules and Statutes on Public Defender Clients**. The State Public Defender and the State Board of Public Defense are frequently consulted by legislators and court administrators about the impact of proposed statutes and rule changes on public defender clients in Minnesota's criminal justice system. A graduate student worked with staff to research and write reports on the impacts of several proposed statute changes in areas such as drug law enforcement and juvenile justice. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31).

■ **Alternatives to Long Term Care**. The Department of Human Services was asked to evaluate the Preadmission Screening/Alternative Care Grants Program and report to the legislature. A graduate student joined with the Long Term Care Management Division work group to do the program evaluation. The work group was composed of members from county agencies, state agencies, private and nonprofit providers, and advocacy groups. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31).

■ **State Program Evaluation**. The Legislative Auditor is responsible for evaluating state programs and making recommendations to improve them. For several years CURA has funded graduate student interns to work with staff on research, analysis, and report writing. Recent subjects have included: state contracting and privatization, higher education central administration, motor carrier regulation, public defender system, and state investment policies and practices. These projects were part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details).

■ **Rural Health Resources**. Rural counties are plagued by shortages of health personnel. The Minnesota Department of Health requested assistance mapping existing personnel and comparing this information to rural demographics as part of its efforts to improve health care delivery. The project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31).

■ **Perceptions of the Department of Water and Gas in Duluth**. A team of students and faculty evaluated the delivery of services by the Duluth Department of Water and Gas. They assessed community attitudes about the services delivered and how the activities of the department affect the lives of the residents in Duluth. The study was sponsored through the Center for Community and Regional Research in Duluth (see p. 30).

■ **Planning Internships in Local Government**. Communities needing help on specific issues apply to CURA and compete for research or technical assistance supplied by graduate students from the Humphrey Institute's Planning Program. For a more complete description of this internship program, see p. 32. In the past two years, the following communities received assistance:

**Anoka County.** Working with twenty-one communities to implement the new Community Development Program.

**Carver County.** Creation of a groundwater plan and development of new shoreland policies.

**Chaska.** Administration of a flood control project and implementation of a recycling program.

**Crystal.** Revision of ordinances required by a new comprehensive plan.

**Robbinsdale.** Update of comprehensive plan and creation of a transition zone to reduce the impact of North Memorial Medical Center on adjacent residential areas.


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**Rosemount.** Revision of the city's comprehensive plan.

**Roseville.** Modification of the city's comprehensive plan.

**South St. Paul.** Work on the Armour redevelopment area, Packer river terminal, railway consolidation, and a Mississippi port proposal.

**Washington County.** Implementation of an evaluation project for the Social Services Department.

■ **Minnesota's Response to AIDS**. AIDS has become a major challenge to the health of Minnesotans. A professor of political science and his colleague at Roosevelt University in Chicago studied how government agencies in Minnesota have responded to the challenge. The response has been carefully designed and effective, but major additional efforts will be needed. The study will become part of a book the two researchers are writing on the politics of AIDS. Their work was supported through CURA's Faculty Research Competition (see p. 31).

■ **Physical Ability Tests for Police Departments**. Women have argued that police departments have kept females out through the use of physical ability tests that demand more strength and endurance than is required to do the job. With the assistance of a CURA grant, a professor of industrial relations worked with the Minneapolis Police Department to develop tests that better meet the actual job requirements. Minneapolis is now using those tests for screening purposes with good success.

■ **Coping with Conflict at the Legislature**. The Conflict and Change Center (see p. 29) provided thirteen hours of conflict management instruction for the Legislative Staff Management Institute.

■ **Gambling in Minnesota**. A preliminary investigation by CURA showed a significant correlation between income in Minnesota cities and state lottery revenues: the lower the city's median income, the higher the per capita revenues from the state lottery tended to be. Additional data, gathered through the 1991 Minnesota State Survey, are now being analyzed to determine if this correlation exists at the individual household level. The study is also exploring attitudes towards state regulation of gambling. Initial returns indicate that while a majority of Minnesota adults participate in some form of legalized gambling, almost three times as many persons believe there is too little regulation as believe there is too much; most respondents, however, indicated that the current level of state regulation is "about right."

■ **Historic Preservation**. The Minnesota Historical Society requested assistance, as part of their comprehensive planning process, with identifying critical issues in historic preservation that could guide the activities of the Historic Preservation Office. A graduate student gathered and analyzed information relating to: 1) state legislation for historic preservation; 2) existing programs; 3) programs involving financial incentives for historic preservation. This project was part of CURA's Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see p. 31 for details).

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

■ **All-University Council on Aging (AUCA).** AUCA is a multidisciplinary faculty and student organization of the University of Minnesota, housed and funded through CURA with some support from the Graduate School. It promotes the study of aging and serves as a community resource about aging.

AUCA has created a graduate minor program in gerontology that is available to master's and doctoral students at the University of Minnesota. In addition, AUCA sponsors three courses on aging:

Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Aging
The Biology of Aging
Humanities and Aging

A directory to other courses on aging at the University is published annually. For doctoral students interested in aging, AUCA provides an interdisciplinary seminar where students meet to share issues and resources and to critique their research in progress. Visiting scholars are brought to the University on a regular basis to strengthen interdisciplinary studies in aging. Their public lectures are open to community professionals in aging.

AUCA supports research on aging by awarding seed grants for faculty research projects each year. Ten grants were awarded in the last two years. More than half have been successful in obtaining outside funds to continue beyond the seed grant stage. A number of these projects have been described in earlier sections of this update. In addition, AUCA sponsors an annual graduate student paper competition. AUCA publishes *Aging: News* two or three times a year to keep University and community professionals and scholars up to date and a catalogue of research activities on aging at the University was published in 1989.

■ **Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project (SARS).** This CURA-sponsored project was established to encourage, coordinate, and support research related to Southeast Asian people, especially Hmong and Cambodian refugees who have resettled in Minnesota and other parts of the United States. In the past decade SARS has come to be recognized as a national as well as international resource for information about Southeast Asian refugees and their resettlement. Since the Twin Cities has recently been designated as a cluster community to receive Tibetan refugees, SARS is also

assembling resettlement information on Tibetans.

SARS maintains a collection of nearly 4,000 documents on the culture, language, adaptation, education, and mental health of these refugees. The collection is available to faculty, scholars, students, health and other professionals as well as interested community members. Bibliographic information about the collection has been entered into a computerized data base so that documents may easily be retrieved by subject, refugee group, or geographic location. SARS also maintains a data base of agencies throughout the United States that provide services to the Southeast Asian population and a collection of newspaper clippings and periodicals on Southeast Asian refugees. Use of the collection has increased to more than seventy-five persons a month. SARS also receives over 100 telephone calls a month from individuals conducting research.

The quarterly *Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Newsletter* is designed to facilitate communication among researchers and refugee service providers. Each twelve-page issue includes abstracts of current refugee publications and other research as well as a calendar of related conferences and announcements. The free newsletter is sent to over 2,000 readers, including eighty-three libraries and more than 100 scholars and professionals outside the United States.

SARS has helped sponsor intensive Hmong classes each summer beginning in 1990. Nineteen students enrolled in 1990, ten in 1991. Participants met one hundred class hours during the ten-week summer session. SARS also continues to publish a series of research papers known as the "occasional papers." Representatives of SARS are active participants in the Minnesota Refugee Consortium, an umbrella organization of all groups participating in resettlement work in Minnesota.

■ **Conflict and Change Center**. The center is supported primarily by the Hewlett Foundation and the University of Minnesota in order to build knowledge about the origin, process, and management of disputes and conflict, and to better understand their relationships to social changes. It is both a research center and a practice and service center. Its seed grant program provides modest funds for faculty and graduate students to start scholarly work on some aspect of conflict or disputes and their management. Twenty-four studies have been funded in the last two years. A number of these are described earlier in this update. For 1992, fourteen seed grant awards have been made.

A monthly colloquium series and visiting scholars help disseminate research findings and the center produces and distributes widely a quarterly newsletter *Process*. In 1990 the center sponsored and hosted an international conference on organizational conflict and change focusing specifically on "Integrating Conflict Management Into Planned Organizational Change." The two-day conference brought together 120 theorists, practitioners, and representatives from United States and Canadian academic, business, government, and nonprofit organizations. The center will host the 1992 Conference of the International Association of Conflict Management.

The center also provides training courses and workshops both inside and outside the University and assistance is provided to organizations seeking to manage conflict. The center's assistance at the University is described in detail under "education" in this update. Conflict management instruction has also been provided for the Minnesota legislature. A Conflict Analysis Service has provided short-term analysis and advice in conflict and change issues to numerous other organizations in Minnesota. One of the center's directors has traveled to Poland and Czechoslovakia to assist government officials cope with change in those countries.

■ **Center for Community Studies (CCS)**. The center links Minnesota communities seeking assistance in physical planning and design with University of Minnesota students and faculty. The problem facing the community becomes the challenge in the classroom, either as a class project or as a senior thesis project. Solutions are created under faculty supervision and the work of creating them becomes part of the student's academic experience. Communities are asked to pay for travel

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and other direct project expenses, but student and faculty time are donated as a service to the community.

Typically the student or class meet many times with people from the community. Students will listen and help articulate issues and at the end will offer ideas and alternatives to help the community make better decisions about local resources and wiser assessments of land use possibilities. In the past two years twenty-eight communities were served by center projects, which are described under "community and neighborhood studies" earlier in this update.

Local governments, community groups, and most nonprofit groups can apply for a CCS project. A faculty committee selects projects that: 1) involve physical planning or design, or resource and land use studies; 2) fit into the teaching mission of the University programs most involved (landscape architecture, recreation, architecture, forest resources, and environmental studies); 3) are sufficiently exciting yet achievable by students; 4) are not more appropriately done by professionals; 5) have a broad constituency and community support; and 6) are reasonably accessible from the University's Twin Cities campus.

■ **Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)**. Located on the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota, the center is funded by CURA. It encourages and supports social scientific research in northeastern Minnesota. In the last biennium, CCRR supported eleven projects which are described in other sections of this update.

CCRR projects link faculty and students with community agencies on research projects of local and regional significance. The community agencies are expected to pay at least half of the project costs. Projects provide an opportunity for UMD students to become actively involved in their community while learning specific research skills and general principles of social planning and evaluation. Students work closely with faculty members who are ultimately responsible for the success of the project. Major student involvement is essential for project funding.

Project proposals come from UMD faculty. Many have been working with community organizations and see CCRR as a way to tackle an important problem. The director and staff of the center encourage these relationships and often direct an inspired professor toward an appropriate agency (or vice versa).

■ **Communiversity Personnel Grants**. This competitive program assists nonprofit agencies and organizations that are based in Minnesota communities to initiate projects requiring short-term personnel assistance. Programs that serve minorities—especially American Indians, African Americans, Hispanics, and Southeast Asians—are especially favored. If a grant is awarded, CURA supports the extra personnel needed, usually an advanced graduate student. Projects range from staff development to research to evaluation to short-term technical assistance. During the past two years eighty-seven such projects have received CURA support. Examples are provided under "minorities and the disadvantaged" in this update.

■ **Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)**. MCSR provides survey research skills and services to people both inside and outside the University of Minnesota. Outside clients typically come from state and local government or from nonprofit organizations. All of the outside clients, and many of the University clients, are working on issues of public policy in Minnesota.

In the past two years, MCSR conducted fifty-one major survey projects and collected data from over 61,000 people and companies. In addition, MCSR provided partial support for another thirty-three surveys. In total it served 102 clients (33 from the University and 69 from outside the University).

Each year MCSR conducts two omnibus telephone surveys: one of 800 households in the metropolitan area and one of 800 households across the state. Omnibus surveys keep costs low by allowing government and nonprofit organizations each to ask a few questions as part of a larger survey. In the past two years seventeen clients were served by the Minnesota state survey, and eight by the metropolitan survey.

Although MCSR is self-supporting and charges for its services, as part of CURA and as part of a land grant university, it provides a limited amount of free survey consulting to individuals and organizations. During the last two years, MCSR provided 173 hours of unpaid consulting to 115 individuals and organizations (100 hours to governments and nonprofit organizations and 73 hours to individuals inside the University of Minnesota).

Six of the fifty-one newest surveys are described briefly:

**Volunteer Drivers.** The Minnesota Department of Transportation wanted to increase the amount of transportation provided by volunteer drivers around the state. MCSR surveyed program managers and drivers looking for barriers, perceived or real, that might be removed.

**Sportfishing.** As part of a study for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics studied the economic impact of recreational fishing in Minnesota and how much people are willing to pay to be able to fish. MCSR surveyed 3,000 anglers asking about frequency of fishing, place, fish sought and caught, and amount of money spent.

**Farming Injuries.** MCSR surveyed almost a thousand farming households in Olmsted County to find out how many had experienced injuries, who had been injured, and what they had been doing when injured. The data were used in an agricultural trauma study conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health and the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota.

**Commercial Disposal of Common Batteries.** The Recycling Office of Hennepin County asked for a survey of businesses known to be heavy users of batteries. A telephone survey from MCSR found out how many batteries

and what kind of batteries were currently being used at eighty-three businesses and how the batteries were being disposed of.

**Environmental Education.** Minnesota teachers and school administrators were surveyed in the spring of 1991 to identify environmental education programming and facility needs as well as to gauge the demand for environmental instruction in an informal setting. The survey was funded by the state Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

**School and Work.** The Provost's Office at the University of Minnesota wanted to better understand the relationship between attending school and working at a paid job. MCSR surveyed more than 2,500 undergraduates at the University asking about how much they worked, where, why, how much they earned, and how it affected their school work.

■ **Faculty Research Competition.** Beginning in the summer of 1984, CURA and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs have jointly sponsored a competitive program supporting interactive research between University of Minnesota faculty and the community.

The purpose of the program is to encourage University faculty to carry out research projects that involve significant issues of public policy for the state and that include interaction with groups, agencies, or organizations in Minnesota. Ideal projects have an applied orientation as well as serving the more basic research interests of the faculty member. Appropriate subjects for research might involve the state's economy, education, employment, energy, environment, ethnic groups, housing, poverty, social services, and transportation. The program provides summer support for faculty on nine-month appointments and graduate student research assistance.

The results of these research projects are published in the *CURA Reporter*. Projects completed since 1989 have been described in earlier sections of this update. Eight projects are currently ongoing.

**Housing Frail Elderly.** A professor of health services administration is studying the outcomes of moving the frail elderly to nursing homes, as opposed to leaving them in the community, and examining what predicts who will move to a nursing home and who will stay in the community.

**Groundwater Protection.** Minnesota is developing regulations to protect groundwater from contamination through well-heads. To help define protection zones and the activities and substances that must be regulated, a professor of geology and geophysics is studying the experiences of Western Europe and combining this with his knowledge of Minnesota's hydrogeology.

**Youth Mentoring Programs.** Two professors of educational psychology are working with the Minnesota Department of Education to develop evaluation models for youth mentoring programs. The programs are widely used to help young people academically and with career and social issues.

**When Government Subsidizes Business.** Increasingly governments and foundations are making subsidized loans and grants to businesses. A professor of finance and insurance is analyzing the results to see how existing subsidy programs might be improved. Preliminary results indicate some negative impacts on the normal lending system.

**Treatment for Batterers.** Minority males have low levels of participation in treatment programs for batterers: a professor of social work is studying treatment programs in the Twin Cities and looking to identify those organizational factors that encourage voluntary participation.

**The Shortage of Nurses.** A professor of industrial relations is working with a survey of over six thousand registered nurses in Minnesota to learn what is required to keep nurses in full-time nursing.

**Sexual Assault Cases in the Legal System.** A professor of psychology is looking at how victims of sexual assault are treated in our legal system. Local data about rapes and data from rape victims will be collected and analyzed and findings will be presented to the legal system and to the Sexual Assault Resource Service at Hennepin County Medical Center.

**Link between Poverty and Child Abuse.** Two professors of sociology are working with Ramsey County data to try and establish a link between recurring child abuse and families that live in persistent poverty, rather than temporary or transitional poverty.

■ **Graduate Interns for State Agencies**. This program fosters opportunities for graduate students to work outside the University while providing technical assistance and research skills to state agencies, usually for one academic year. Projects are selected on the basis of importance to the state and value of the learning experience for students. Agencies supervise the students and share costs with CURA. In

the past two years, sixteen interns have worked in eleven agencies:

Administration Department–Carlson/Dyrstad Commission on Reform and Efficiency (CORE)
Health Department
Historical Society–Historic Preservation Office
Human Services (2)
Jobs and Training Department–Research and Statistics Office
Labor and Industry Department
Legislative Auditor–Program Evaluation Division (2)
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (2)
Metropolitan Council (3)
Public Defense Board
State Public Defender

These projects are described earlier in this update under various topic headings.

■ **Planning Internships in Local Government**. Local government planners are helped while they provide hands-on learning experiences for graduate students in the Humphrey Institute's Master of Planning in Public Affairs Program. This program began in 1990 and has already served nine cities and counties. Brief descriptions of the projects are given under "policy and government reform" in this update.

■ **Visiting Scholars**. Over the past decade CURA has served as a temporary home for incipient projects and visiting scholars. Typically they received outside funding and worked on projects concerning public policy in Minnesota. CURA provided office space and ancillary services and often published the results.

Past projects included the Philanthropy Project, the Lead Toxicity Project, and the Minnesota Housing Project. The first led to the development of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. The second produced a useful analysis and mapping of the lead content in the soils of the Twin Cities. The third developed information on subsidized housing and led to the state's first grass-roots low-income housing advocacy group, the Minnesota Housing Partnership.

Since 1989, three scholars have been housed at CURA working on significant projects:

**Oliver Byrum,** Director of Planning for the City of Minneapolis, studied planning strategies for mid-size cities.

**Michel Mignot,** anthropologist with the French National Center for Scientific Research, looked at the economic progress of Southeast Asian refugees in Minnesota.

**Ron Kroese,** head of the Land Stewardship Project, is examining how agriculture became an industry following World War II.

More details on their work have been included in earlier sections of this update on CURA programs and projects.

■ **Community Service Activities of CURA Staff**. Any summary of CURA's activities over the past two years would be remiss if it did not cover the community service activities of CURA's own staff. Over the past two years, they have provided congressional and legislative testimony, have been interviewed by the media, have written special reports, and have made many public presentations to schools, community groups, organizations, and individuals. Finally, they have served on committees and boards of forty-five state and local organizations including the following:

**Community Development**
McKnight Neighborhood Self-Help Improvement Program
Organizing Apprenticeship Program
Headwaters Fund
Neighborhood Study Advisory Group, Metropolitan Council
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Governor's Design Team
Minneapolis Planning Commission
Census Awareness Committee, Metropolitan Council

**Economic Development**
Common Profits
Working Group on Economic Dislocation
St. Paul Economic Development Study Task Force
Economic Blueprint for Minnesota, Department of Trade and Economic Development
Wisconsin Center for Rural Development
Center for the New West

**Environment**
District Energy St. Paul, Inc.
Water Research Advisory Committee, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
State Groundwater Advisory Committee, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

**Government and Civic**
Board of Directors, Citizens League
Advisory committee awarding research grants on inter-governmental cooperation, League of Minnesota Cities
Board of Directors, Government Training Service

**Housing**
MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing)
Alliance of the Streets
Minnesota Fair Housing Center

**Human Services**
Research Committee, Governor's Action for Children Commission
Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project, Urban Coalition
Child Care Workers Alliance
Policy and Planning Committee and Research Subcommittee, United Way of Minneapolis
Community Resources Program, St. Paul's Human Services Advisory Committee
Minnesota Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
Family Investment Plan Advisory Committee, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minneapolis Task Force on the Homeless, Hennepin County

**Land Use**
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service
St. Paul Riverfront Commission
Riverfront Redevelopment Corporation
Minnesota Arboretum
Land Use Update Committee, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

**Minorities**
Twin City Tree Trust
Hispanic Child Care Research Committee, Metropolitan State University and Chicano/Latinos Unidos in Servicos

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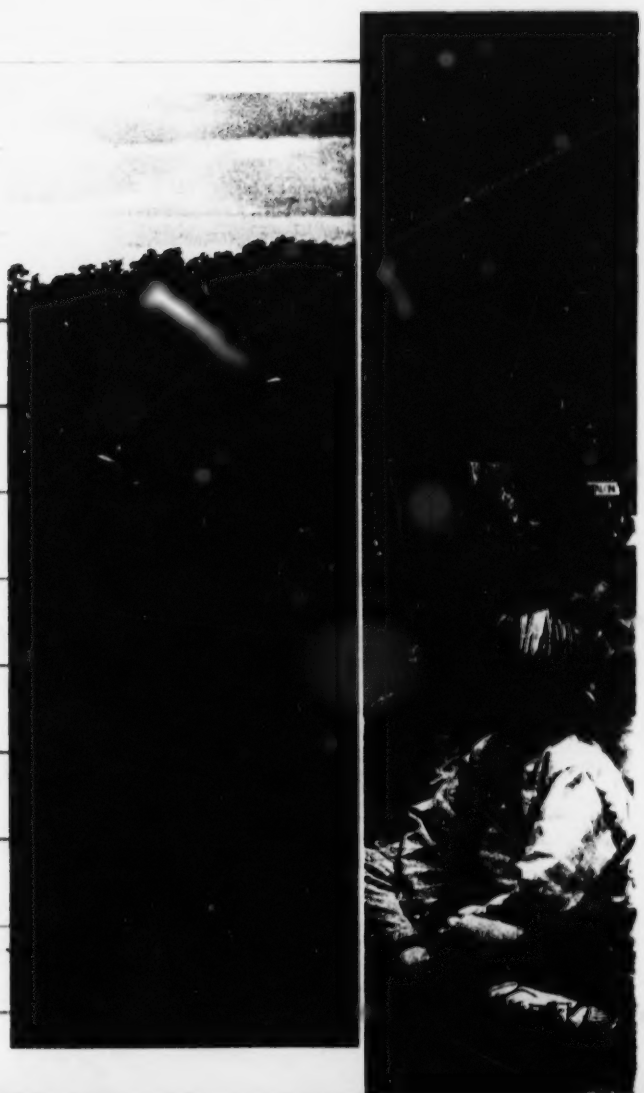

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